

Trip Planner

Background information: Review Chapters 2: *Fishing Equipment*, 4: *Fishing Techniques* and 5: *Fish Identification and Life History* in Going Fishing

Standards:

Duration: 45 minutes

Materials: FiNS tackle box with laminated cards, Common Fish of Nebraska book, Nebraska Fishing guide, Plan Your Trip worksheet (pg 3).

Objectives: Students will learn how to outfit a tackle box and plan a fishing trip.

Warm up:

To start the thought process of planning a fishing trip, discuss the importance of planning and preparation in an everyday scenario such as inviting some friends to go to the public pool on a Saturday afternoon.

Activity:

PART I:

Working as a group, students will empty the contents of the tackle box, creating a pile of ‘identified’ items and a pile of items they need to learn about.

Have the groups take turns describing items in their ‘identified’ piles. Guide the discussion so that each item is named and its function is understood. Point out that hooks, bobbers, and sinkers come in a variety of shapes and sizes and discuss the differences.

As items are discussed, have students return them to the tackle boxes. Once all ‘identified’ items are returned to the boxes, have the students take guesses about the functions of the remaining items. Guide them in determining their use and importance as part

of the tackle box.

Ask students if they can think of anything else they would include in a tackle box.

Ask each student to pick out five essentials from the tackle box – the things they feel are absolutely necessary for success on a fishing trip. Discuss the merits of each choice.

Example of questions that can guide discussion:

- What are some features that make a good tackle box?
- When do you need to carry a fishing permit?
- How does the number of a hook indicate its size?
- What is a good hook size to use for a bluegill?
- What are two functions of a sinker?
- Why might you want to use a slip sinker?
- When would it be important to measure a fish?

- What might you catch if you fished with this [insert: jig, crankbait, plastic worm,etc.]? *Use the ‘Awesome Lures’ handout as a guide.
- Why is it important to keep a regulations book with you? *Remind students that regulations are not the same on every body of water, and that ignoring regulations when fishing is breaking the law, also that regulations serve an important purpose to help maintain good fishing opportunities for anglers.

PART II:

Pass out copies of fish ID books and fishing guides to each student. Have students create a fishing plan for an upcoming trip using the “Plan Your Trip” worksheet, Fishing Guide, Fish of Nebraska book and knowledge learned from the “Attract a Fish” lesson.

Have them discuss as a group:

- Where I’ll fish
- When I’ll fish (time of day)
- What I want to fish for
- What I’ll use for bait
- What type of habitat I’ll target
- What I’ll bring with me

Potential items to include:

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Water | Lures |
| Snacks | Pliers |
| Cell phone/camera | Clippers |
| Fishing pole | First aid kit |
| Tackle box | Tape measure |
| Fish ID book | Whistle |
| Fishing guide | Sunscreen/bugspray |
| Fishing permit | Filet knife |
| Hooks | Stringer |
| Bobbers | Ice |
| Sinkers | Ziplock bag |
| Swivels | |

Wrap up:

Ask students to share stories of successful fishing trips (or other activities) and discuss how planning helped make those activities enjoyable.



PLAN YOUR TRIP

SPECIES:

LOCATION:

TIME OF DAY:

HABITAT:

BAIT TYPE:

TACKLE CHECKLIST:
